



Serial No. 09/370,152  
Amendment Dated: January 18, 2005  
Reply to Office Action

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims  
in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1.-5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A distributed control system  
comprising a network and at least one control unit having a communication  
means for connecting to said network, wherein said control unit comprises:

a message object configuration information storing means for storing a  
starting procedure of at least one message object having a network  
communication function, the message object being for performing communication  
processing between application programs each of which is constituted by at least  
one software module, and the message object configuration information storing  
means comprising a communication processing priority indicating a priority to  
execute communication processing; and

a real-time communication processing control means for executing said  
message object based on the priority by referring to said message object  
configuration information storing means;